

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance.

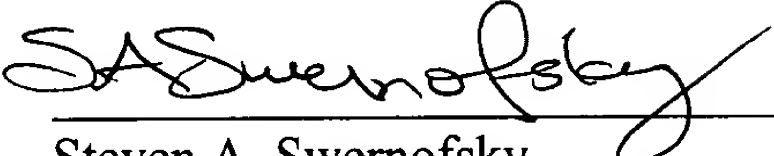
Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of this application as amended.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited and requested to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 20, 1999

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